SCENE IL

Southampton, A Council-Chamber,

Enter EXETER, BEDFORD, *and*

BED. 'Fore God, his grace is bold, to trust these traitors.

EXE. They shall be apprehended by and by.

WEST. How smooth and even they do bear them-selves !
As if allegiance in their bosoms sat.
Crowned with faith, and constant lovalty.

BED. The king hath note of all that they intend,
By interception which they dream not of.

EXE. Nav, but the man that was his bedfellow7,

given them reason to expect a share. I have not therefore 'de-
parted from the old punctuation. STEEVENS.

7 — that was his BEDFELLOW,] So, Holinshed : " The said
Lord Scroop was in "such favour with the king, that he admitted
him sometime to be his *bedfellow,*' The familiar appellation of
bedfellow, which appears strange to us, was common among the
ancient nobility. There is a letter from the *sixth* Earl of North-
umberland, (still preserved in the collection of the present Duke,)
addressed " To his beloved cousyn Thomas Arundel," &c. which
begins, ** *Bedfellow,* after my most hart6 recommendacion." So,
in a comedy called A Knack to know a Knave, 1594> :
** Yet, for them wast once *bedfellow* to a king,
** And that I lov'd thee as my second self," &c.
Again, in Look About You, 1600 :
« - if I not err
" Thou art the prince's ward *.
« - I am his ward, chamberlain, and *bedfellow* "
Again, in Cynthia's Revenge^ 161& :
" Her I'll bestow, and without prejudice,
" On thee alone, my noble *bedfellow.*' STEEVENS.
This unseemly custom continued common- till the middle of the
last century, if not later. Cromwell obtained much of his intelli-
gence during the civil wars from the mean men with whom he
slept. — Henry Lord Scroop was the third husband of Joan
Duchess of York, stepmother of Richard Earl of Cambridge.
" MALONE.